

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 19, 21, and 25-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also objected to claim 15 in that the preamble indicates that the claimed device is an actuation device for a rapid-action reception coupling but fails to indicate what it is being coupled to. The Applicants hereby amend claim 15 such that the preamble of the claim indicates "an actuation device for a rapid-action reception coupling for attachment to a connection nipple". The Applicants note that antecedent support for this claim limitation may be found in the first paragraph of the detailed description, e.g. page 3 line 11 and in Figure 2 of the drawings. The Applicants also note that similar limitations were previously submitted in claims 31 and 32 which the Examiner is indicating are allowable.

The Applicants also by this paper amend claim 15 to include the limitations of previously pending claim 19 of "wherein the lever mechanism comprises two levers of approximately equal length hingedly connected and a roller positioned approximately at the connection of the two levers" and cancels claim 19. Thus, the Applicants believe that claim 15 as amended is now allowable as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. The Applicants also respectfully add new claim 33 which includes the limitations of claim 15 and 21 in independent form which the Examiner also indicated would be allowable in the Office Action.

The Examiner also rejected claims 15-18, 20, 22-24, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,439,258 to Yates. However, as noted in the Office Action, the Applicants believe that claim 15 as amended to include the previously dependent subject matter of claim 19 is patentable over the Yates '258 reference and that the claims depending therefrom, i.e. claims 16-18 and 20-30, properly further define the Applicants' claimed invention and are patentable under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 in light of Yates. Likewise, the Applicants believe that new claim 33 including the limitations of claim 15 and 21 in independent form is also patentable over the teachings of Yates under the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102. As the Examiner has previously indicated that claims 31 and 32 are allowable, the Applicants believe that the application as amended is now in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability. The

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Applicants believe that this response fully addresses the objections and rejections made by the Examiner in the Office Action, however should there remain any further impediments to the allowance of this application that might be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

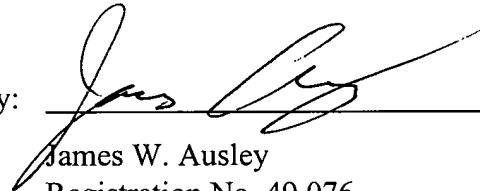
Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: _____

12/8/03

By: _____



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